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ABSTRACT

Many cross-cultural studies have been criticized for imposing instruments on peoples of other cultures as if the constructed measure were universal. This study attempts to establish a cross-cultural equivalence of measurement and construct validity in an examination of the functions of social networks in Zimbabwean, Chinese, and American societies. A sample of adolescents from each country completed assessments describing their perceptions of their familial and extra-familial social networks. The dimensions underlying adolescents' perceptions of their parents were quite similar not only when comparing mothers and fathers within a culture, but also when comparing the roles of parents across the three cultures. African mothers and fathers were least similar to a pan-cultural model, while Chinese and American parents were considered to be closer to the model. Other parental similarities and differences within a given culture or between cultures were also found. (MDM)

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# Factorial Congruence of Adolescent Perceptions of Social Networks Across Three Cultures

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## Abstract

Many cross-cultural studies to date have been criticized for imposing instruments on peoples of other cultures as if the constructed measured were universal. Procrustes transformations, the popular method of establishing factorial equivalence, have been criticized by Hurley and Cattell (1962) because, through the possible misuse of the procedures, one can perform "the brutal feat of making almost any data fit almost any hypothesis!". An alternative procedure, described by Wrigley and Neuhaus (1955), is illustrated. This provides an index roughly resembling a correlation coefficient to measure the degree of factorial similarity when two or more different samples are independently assessed via a single set of variables. African, Chinese, and American adolescents completed assessments describing their perceptions of their familial and extra-familial social networks. Comparisons made between maternal and paternal factors at the Pan-cultural level provided similarity indices ranging from .69 to .96, and cross-cultural comparisons conducted within parent type provided indices ranging from .41 to .94. Overall, four factors (reliable affection, discipline/control, intimacy, and companionship) were found to possess sufficient cross-cultural and cross-parent similarity.

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## Introduction

It has been established that social networks function to meet the adjustment needs of developing persons and are perceived by them as important sources of support (Furman & Buhrmester, 1985; DeRosier & Kupersmidt, 1991, Reid, Landesman, Treder & Jaccard, 1989). Tietjen (1989) further argues both that social networks function to promote competence within the culture, and that the social requirements of a culture influence how persons within the social networks function to accomplish this end. Unfortunately, many cross-cultural studies to date have imposed instruments developed and standardized in Western cultures on samples of people from other cultures, and have employed between groups analyses in a search of cross-cultural differences. Research of this type has been labeled by Triandis (1972) as "pseudoetic", rather than "etic" (employing truly universal concepts or categories), in the sense that it imposes the "emic" (culture-specific) categories, variables, concepts, or constructs derived from past research in one culture (Western) on the members of another culture as if these categories and constructs were universal. Cross-cultural equivalence of measurement and construct validity must be established before any attempt to interpret cross-cultural contrasts is made. The purpose of this presentation is to illustrate the use of this procedure in the process of establishing cross-cultural measurement equivalence.

## Sample and Procedure

Our sample consisted of adolescents, 13 and 15 years of age, living in an urban area with both parents and a sibling. Subjects from the Shona tribe in Zimbabwe, the Nanjing province of China, and a midwestern metropolitan area in the USA were assessed. The Network of Relationships Inventory (NRI) developed by Furman & Buhrmester (1985) was used to compare the relationships of the subject with the members of his/her social network. The NRI provided ten scores describing various aspects of the interpersonal relationship (e.g., reliable alliance, affection, instrumental help, intimacy, etc.). These conceptually derived factors are based on Weiss's (1974) theory of social provision within relationships, and are assumed to be non-orthogonal (Buhrmester, personal communication, 1992).

A detailed description of the procedures to obtain these data is found in Harrison, Stewart, Wang, Myambo, Chen and Chao (1992). The subjects' descriptions of their mothers and fathers via the NRI constituted the data sets to be described in this report. Separate analyses were conducted with each parent being considered the target. Analyses were conducted with the overall or Pan-cultural data set (N = 258 mothers and 246 fathers), the African subset (N = 98 mothers and 92 fathers), the Chinese subset (N = 107 mothers and 104 fathers), and the American subset (N = 53 mothers and 50 fathers).

## Computation Procedures for the Degree of Factorial Similarity

One method of establishing such equivalence is to conduct a factor analysis of the test in question and assess the similarity between the factor structure of the data drawn from the two cultures. This approach requires both that the factor loadings from the original standardization sample, and that some method of quantifying factorial similarity be available. A group of methods, collectively referred to as Procrustes transformations, have often been utilized to establish the extent to which two factors are related to one another. It is important to note that the term Hurley and Cattell (1962) attached to these techniques refers to the Procrustes, the evil character in Greek mythology who made all of his victims literally fit his bed by stretching those who were too short and cutting down those who were too tall. Indeed, Hurley and Cattell described the procedure as one that "makes almost any data fit almost any hypothesis" (p. 206). Such a description does little to encourage confidence in this being an advisable method for establishing cross-cultural congruence.

An earlier alternative had been provided by Wrigley and Neuhaus (1955) who described an index roughly resembling a correlation coefficient to measure the factorial similarity for factors derived from fixed variables measured on different samples.

The simple expedient of utilizing an index roughly resembling a coefficient of correlation has been used by several investigators to compare the weights of a fixed set of variables on two factors presumed to be identical, or at least, suspected to have a high degree of relationship. Wrigley and Neuhaus (1955) presented the following formula for measuring the degree of factorial similarity:

$$\varphi_{pq} = \frac{\sum_{j=1}^{n} a_{jp}\, b_{jq}}{\sqrt{\left(\sum_{j=1}^{n} a_{jp}^2\right)\left(\sum_{j=1}^{n} b_{jq}^2\right)}}$$

Where 'a' and 'b' represent the loadings of the j variables obtained from two different samples designated as 'p' and 'q'. Therefore, the numerator is the sum of the product of the factor loadings from the two solutions being compared, and the denominator is the square root of the product of the sum of the squared factor loadings.

## Results

Preliminary data analyses indicated that the underlying factors were significantly correlated, thereby leading us to conduct quartermax oblique rotations in deriving the final solutions. The number of factors derived was limited initially to the number of eigenvalues greater than 1.00, and a set of scree plots were derived to determine the optimal number of factors to be derived both across cultures and across targets (mothers vs. fathers). Six-factor solutions were derived (See Figures 1 and 2) and the congruence of the factors were assessed across cultures for each parent as well as between parents within each of the four cultural groups (See Table 1).

Four of the six factors were consistently found both across cultures and between targets with mean coefficients of factorial congruence ranging between .62 and .91. These four factors were provisionally labeled reliable affection, discipline/control, intimacy, and companionship. Reliable affection referred to providing the developing person with a sense of permanence and continuity in affection, respect, admiration, and a feeling that one was a worthwhile object of love. Discipline/control referred to providing the developing person with corrections for personal actions and clues for acceptable behavior. Intimacy referred to providing a sense of emotional closeness with another person so that you could open up and talk about all of your secrets, thoughts and feelings. Companionship referred to someone with whom you could play, have fun, and spend free time doing different things.

At the Pan-cultural level, the four factors derived for mothers and fathers appeared to be relatively similar (r values range from .71 to .96). However, when parental comparisons were made within cultures, a number of weaknesses appeared. Specifically, the discipline/control factors for African mothers and fathers were not at all similar (r = .17), and, overall, the factors derived for the African fathers did not resemble the Pan-cultural model nearly as well as those obtained for their Chinese and American counterparts.

## Conclusions

The dimensions underlying adolescents' perceptions of their parents were quite similar not only when comparing mothers and fathers within a culture, but also when comparing the roles of the parents across the three cultures. Parental similarities and differences within a given culture or between cultures might be summarized in the following manner:

Mothers Across the Cultures:

- mothers in all three cultures were highly similar to the Pan-cultural model on reliable alliance.
- African mothers were least like the Pan-cultural model on discipline/control, and most similar on reliable affection; they were perceived as loving and as someone you could argue with over discipline issues; their offspring were happier and more satisfied with the nature of the relationship than were the other two groups.
- Chinese mothers were perceived as most similar to the Pan-cultural model on intimacy and discipline/control and least similar on companionship; they were perceived as quarrelsome companions more so than the other mothers.
- American mothers were most similar to the Pan-cultural model on reliable affection and least on discipline/control; they were perceived most as teaching as they disciplined.

Fathers Across the Cultures:

- African fathers were least similar to the Pan-cultural model on each of the four dimensions; they were perceived as providing a reliable affection to their offspring; they were loving, helpful, and willing to listen and spend free time with their offspring; they differed from the fathers in the other two cultures on discipline/control; they were perceived as disciplinarians in incidences of disobedience, yet African youngsters were sure the relationship would endure; intimacy was such that the youngster was permitted to get upset, mad, or argumentative with the father whereas this freedom was not perceived by the Chinese or American adolescents.
- Chinese fathers were perceived as the most similar to the Pan-cultural model of all parents surveyed; the Chinese fathers were highly similar on reliable affection and intimacy, and only somewhat less similar on discipline/control; Chinese fathers were perceived as having a disciplining style that emphasized intimacy.
- American fathers were perceived as similar to the Pan-cultural model on the qualities of reliable affection, intimacy, and companionship, and somewhat less similar on discipline/control.

Comparisons of Mothers and Fathers Within a Culture:

- African mothers and fathers were perceived as less similar to one another on all of the qualities; the affection of African mothers were perceived as involving more approval and enhancement than that of fathers, who were perceived as higher in instrumental help; mothers' discipline style was perceived as more conflict-laden than that of fathers; mothers were perceived as more loving and affectionate, whereas fathers were perceived as someone who was close to you but who was also more controlling; companionship with African mothers involved a sense of helpfulness, while companionship with fathers involved mutual activities.
- Chinese mothers and fathers were perceived in a highly similar manner on each of the four dimensions; one exception noted was that quarrelsomeness appeared to be more characteristic of the Chinese mothers than fathers.
- the dimensions underlying the descriptions of

American mothers and fathers were quite similar in each of the domains except perhaps companionship, where maternal companionship seemed to be flavored with intimacy while paternal companionship was characterized by mutual activities.

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**Table 1**

**Indices of Factor Congruence Between Parents at Pancultural Level and Between Cultures Within Each Parent Type**

| Pan-cultural | African | Chinese | American | Means |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Reliable Affection | | | | |
| [M1 - F1] | M1 r = .92 | M1 r = .88 | M1 r = .94 | r = .91 |
| r = .93 | F1 r = .66 | F1 r = .91 | F1 r = .89 | r = .81 |
| | (M1-F1) r = .66 | (M1-F1) r = .95 | (M1-F1) r = .81 | r = .81 |
| Discipline/Control | | | | |
| [M2 - F3] | M5 r = .64 | M4 r = .91 | M3 r = .75 | r = .78 |
| r = .96 | F4 r = .49 | F4 r = .74 | F5 r = .73 | r = .63 |
| | (M5-F4) r = .17 | (M4-F4) r = .80 | (M1-F1) r = .90 | r = .62 |
| Intimacy | | | | |
| [M3 - F4] | M2 r = .77 | M2 r = .92 | M2 r = .88 | r = .85 |
| r = .93 | F2 r = .55 | F2 r = .96 | F4 r = .89 | r = .79 |
| | (M2-F2) r = .23 | (M2-F2) r = .94 | (M2-F4) r = .89 | r = .69 |
| Companionship | | | | |
| [M4 - F2] | M3 r = .72 | M5 r = .59 | M4 r = .76 | r = .67 |
| r = .71 | F1 r = .69 | F3 r = .77 | F3 r = .80 | r = .75 |
| | (M3-F1) r = .57 | (M5-F3) r = .96 | (M4-F3) r = .65 | r = .73 |

Note: Codes refer to factor number within solution, e.g., M1 is first factor when mother is target. Pan-cultural column is overall comparison of mothers and fathers; figures in other columns represent comparisons of mothers and fathers with their Pan-cultural counterparts, and then comparisons of parents within the given culture.

**FIGURE 1: FACTORS OBTAINED WH**

**PAN-CULTURAL SOLUTION, N= 258**

| FACTOR #1 | FACTOR #2 | FACTOR #3 |
|---|---|---|
| AF29 -- strong affection for you | CF13 -- disagree and quarrel | IN16 -- you share secrets |
| ST26 -- how good is relationship | DS19 -- discipline when disobey | IN27 -- you talk about things |
| AF18 -- really care about you | DS8 -- punish you | IN5 -- you tell everything |
| RA33 -- you sure relationship will last | CF24 -- argue with each other | |
| RA11 -- relationship will last | DS30 -- scold you | |
| AF7 -- like or love you | | |
| EW31 -- like/approve of things you do | | |
| ST15 -- happy with relationship | | |
| ST4 -- satisfied with relationship | | |
| EW9 -- you are admired/respected | | |
| EW20 -- treat you like you're good | | |
| IH25 -- help you when you need | | |

**AFRICAN SOLUTION, N= 98**

| FACTOR #1 | FACTOR #2 | FACTOR #3 |
|---|---|---|
| ST26 -- how good is relationship | IN16 -- you share secrets | ST4 -- satisfied with relationship |
| AF29 -- strong affection for you | IN27 -- you talk about things | CP12 -- you play/have fun |
| AF18 -- really care about you | CF24 -- argue with each other | DS19 -- discipline when disobey |
| IH25 -- help you when you need | CF2 -- you get upset/mad | CP1 -- you spend free time |
| RA33 -- you sure relationship will last | | AF7 -- like or love you |
| EW31 -- like/approve of things you do | | DS8 -- punish you |
| EW20 -- treat you like you're good | | ST15 -- happy with relationship |

**CHINESE SOLUTION, N= 207**

| FACTOR #1 | FACTOR #2 | FACTOR #3 |
|---|---|---|
| RA11 -- relationship will last | IN16 -- you share secrets | CP1 -- you spend free time |
| RA33 -- you sure relationship will last | IN27 -- you talk about things | IH3 -- teach you to do things |
| RA22 -- relationship survive fights | IN5 -- you tell everything | CF2 -- you get upset/mad |
| AF18 -- really care about you | EW31 -- like/approve of things you do | CP12 -- you play/have fun |
| AF7 -- like or love you | IH14 -- help you figure out/fix | ST26 -- how good is relationship |
| AF29 -- strong affection for you | CP23 -- you go place/do things | EW9 -- you are admired/respected |
| ST15 -- happy with relationship | | |
| ST4 -- satisfied with relationship | | |
| IH25 -- help you when you need | | |

**AMERICAN SOLUTION, N= 53**

| FACTOR #1 | FACTOR #2 | FACTOR #3 |
|---|---|---|
| AF29 -- strong affection for you | IN5 -- you tell everything | DS8 -- punish you |
| AF18 -- really care about you | IN16 -- you share secrets | CF2 -- you get upset/mad |
| AF7 -- like or love you | IN27 -- you talk about things | CF24 -- argue with each other |
| RA33 -- you sure relationship will last | IH3 -- teach you to do things | CF13 -- disagree and quarrel |
| RA11 -- relationship will last | | DS19 -- discipline when disobey |
| ST26 -- how good is relationship | | |
| ST15 -- happy with relationship | | |
| EW31 -- like/approve of things you do | | |
| ST4 -- satisfied with relationship | | |
| EW9 -- you are admired/respected | | |
| EW20 -- treat you like you're good | | |
| RA22 -- relationship survive fights | | |

Note: Letters and numbers refer to the original scales and item numbers as found in the NRI: RA = Reliable Alliance, EW = Enhancement



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: MOTHER IS TREATED AS TARGET

| CTOR #4 | FACTOR #5 | FACTOR #6 |
|---|---|---|
| 12 – you play/have fun<br>23 – you go place/do things<br>1 -- you spend free time | RA22 -- relationship survive fights<br>CF2 -- you get upset/mad | IH14 -- help you figure out/fix<br>IH3 -- teach you to do things |

| CTOR #4 | FACTOR #5 | FACTOR #6 |
|---|---|---|
| 5 -- you tell everything<br>3 -- teach you to do things<br>14 -- help you figure out/fix<br>6 -- you help with things | CF13 -- disagree and quarrel<br>EW9 -- you are admired/respected<br>DS30 -- scold you<br>RA11 -- relationship will last | CP23 -- you go place/do things<br>RA22 -- relationship survive fights |

| CTOR #4 | FACTOR #5 | FACTOR #6 |
|---|---|---|
| 8 -- punish you<br>19 -- discipline when disobey<br>24 -- argue with each other<br>13 -- disagree and quarrel | EW20 -- treat you like you're good<br>IH6 -- you help with things | DS30 -- scold you |

| CTOR #4 | FACTOR #5 | FACTOR #6 |
|---|---|---|
| 23 -- you go place/do things<br>25 -- help you when you need<br>12 – you play/have fun<br>1 -- you spend free time | IH14 -- help you figure out/fix<br>IH6 -- you help with things | DS30 -- scold you |

Vorth, AF = Affection, CP = Companionship, IN = Intimacy, IH = Instrumental Help, ST = Satisfaction, DS = Discipline, CF = Conflict.



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**FIGURE 2: FACTORS OBTAINED**

**PAN-CULTURAL SOLUTION, N= 246**

| FACTOR #1 | FACTOR #2 | FACTOR #3 |
|---|---|---|
| EW9 -- you are admired/respected | CP23 -- you go place/do things | DS19 -- discipline when disobey |
| ST4 -- satisfied with relationship | IH25 -- help you when you need | DS8 -- punish you |
| ST15 -- happy with relationship | CP12 -- you play/have fun | CF24 -- argue with each other |
| AF18 -- really care about you | IH14 -- help you figure out/fix | CF13 -- disagree and quarrel |
| RA11 -- relationship will last | AF7 -- like or love you | DS30 -- scold you |
| RA33 -- you sure relationship will last | IH3 -- teach you to do things | |
| ST26 -- how good is relationship | EW31 -- like/approve of things you do | |
| AF29 -- strong affection for you | EW20 -- treat you like you're good | |

**AFRICAN SOLUTION, N= 92**

| FACTOR #1 | FACTOR #2 | FACTOR #3 |
|---|---|---|
| ST15 -- happy with relationship | DS19 -- discipline when disobey | CF2 -- you get upset/mad |
| IH14 -- help you figure out/fix | IN27 -- you talk about things | IH6 -- you help with things |
| AF7 -- like or love you | IH3 -- teach you to do things | DS30 -- scold you |
| AF18 -- really care about you | RA33 -- you sure relationship will last | DS8 -- punish you |
| IH25 -- help you when you need | EW31 -- like/approve of things you do | |
| CP1 -- you spend free time | EW20 -- treat you like you're good | |
| IN5 -- you tell everything | | |

**CHINESE SOLUTION, N= 104**

| FACTOR #1 | FACTOR #2 | FACTOR #3 |
|---|---|---|
| RA33 -- you sure relationship will last | IN16 -- you share secrets | EW20 -- treat you like you're good |
| RA11 -- relationship will last | IN27 -- you talk about things | IH6 -- you help with things |
| RA22 -- relationship survive fights | IN5 -- you tell everything | IH25 -- help you when you need |
| AF29 -- strong affection for you | CP23 -- you go place/do things | EW9 -- you are admired/respected |
| ST15 -- happy with relationship | | IH14 -- help you figure out/fix |
| AF18 -- really care about you | | |

**AMERICAN SOLUTION, N= 50**

| FACTOR #1 | FACTOR #2 | FACTOR #3 |
|---|---|---|
| RA11 -- relationship will last | AF18 -- really care about you | IH14 -- help you figure out/fix |
| RA33 -- you sure relationship will last | AF7 -- like or love you | CP12 -- you play/have fun |
| RA22 -- relationship survive fights | AF29 -- strong affection for you | IH25 -- help you when you need |
| ST15 -- happy with relationship | EW9 -- you are admired/respected | DS19 -- discipline when disobey |
| ST26 -- how good is relationship | | CP23 -- you go place/do things |
| ST4 -- satisfied with relationship | | EW31 -- like/approve of things you do |
| EW20 -- treat you like you're good | | |

Note: Letters and numbers refer to the original scales and item numbers as found in the NRI: RA = Reliable Alliance, EW = Enhancem



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HEN FATHER IS TREATED AS TARGET

**FACTOR #4**
IN27 -- you talk about things
IN16 -- you share secrets
IN5 -- you tell everything

**FACTOR #5**
CF2 -- you get upset/mad

**FACTOR #6**
RA22 -- relationship survive fights
CP1 -- you spend free time

**FACTOR #4**
CF24 -- argue with each other
AF29 -- strong affection for you

**FACTOR #5**
ST4 -- satisfied with relationship
CF13 -- disagree and quarrel
EW9 -- you are admired/respected

**FACTOR #6**
CP23 -- you go place/do things
ST26 -- how good is relationship
RA11 -- relationship will last
CP12 -- you play/have fun
IN16 -- you share secrets

**FACTOR #4**
DS19 -- discipline when disobey
DS8 -- punish you
DS30 -- scold you
EW31 -- like/approve of things you do

**FACTOR #5**
ST4 -- satisfied with relationship
ST26 -- how good is relationship
CF2 -- you get upset/mad
IH3 -- teach you to do things
CP1 -- you spend free time
CP12 -- you play/have fun
AF7 -- like or love you

**FACTOR #6**
CF13 -- disagree and quarrel
CF24 -- argue with each other

**FACTOR #4**
IN16 -- you share secrets
IN5 -- you tell everything
IN27 -- you talk about things
IH3 -- teach you to do things
CP1 -- you spend free time

**FACTOR #5**
CF13 -- disagree and quarrel
DS8 -- punish you
CF2 -- you get upset/mad
CF24 -- argue with each other

**FACTOR #6**
DS30 -- scold you
IH6 -- you help with things

of Worth, AF = Affection, CP = Companionship, IN = Intimacy, IH = Instrumental Help, ST = Satisfaction, DS = Discipline, CF = Conflict.